

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: GIEREK MEETING WITH EDWARD A. PISZEK,

PRESIDENT, COPERNICUS SOCIETY OF AMERICA,

MAY 22, 1974, 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

1. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE FIRST SECRETARY'S CONFERENCE ROOM, IN THE PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING. WINCENTY KRAKSO, PRESIDENT OF THE POLINIA SOCIETY, ACCOMPANIED THE FIRST SECRETARY. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED MR. PISZEK. ANDRZEJ SUCHONSKI WAS THE INTERPRETER.

2. FOLLOWING AN EXCHANGE OF AMENITIES, MR. PISZEK SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SUGGESTION ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH POLAND MIGHT MEET ITS SHORTAGE OF HOTEL ROOMS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, WHILE IT IS CONSTRUCTING THE NEW HOTELS IT NEEDS. HE SAID THAT, IN THE U.S., MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVE IN MOBILE HOMES. THESE CAN BE PURCHASED COMPLETELY FURNISHED AND PUT IN PLACE WITH A MINIMUM OF SITE PREPARATION. IF THE POLES WERE TO PURCHASE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER, THEY COULD SET THEM UP IN PLACES OF TOURISTIC INTEREST, ACCORDING TO THE SEASON--E.G., IN THE MAZURIAN LAKES REGION DURING THE SUMMER, MOVING THEM TO THE MOUNTAINS FOR THE WINTER-SPORTS SEASON. THE AVAILABILITY OF ACCOMMODATION SHOULD ENABLE MANY MORE TOURISTS TO VISIT POLAND AND THE PROFIT ON RENTAL

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OF THE MOBILE HOMES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS DEFRAYING

THE COST OF HOTEL CONSTRUCTION.

3. SECRETARY GIEREK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SUGGESTION, BUT SAID HE HAD AN EVEN BETTER IDEA. WITH A GOOD DEAL OF FORCEFULNESS AND WARMTH, HE ASKED WHY AMERICAN FIRMS ARE NOT BUILDING HOTELS IN POLAND, AS ARE THE SWEDES, FRENCH, ITALIANS, AND YUGOSLAVS? (IN AN ASIDE, HE SAID THAT THE POLES HAD ALSO HAD ATTRACTIVE OFFERS FROM WEST GERMAN AND WEST BERLIN FIRMS TO BUILD A NUMBER OF HOTELS, BUT HAD TURNED THESE DOWN BECAUSE, "IN THE LIGHT OF OUR HISTORY, WE PREFER NOT TO HAVE THE GERMANS BUILD ANYTHING IN POLAND.") THE POLES WERE PAYING OFF THE COST OF THESE NEW HOTELS IN FROM EIGHT TO TEN YEARS. THEY WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE AMERICAN FIRMS BUILDING HOTELS AS WELL AND WOULD GIVE THEM A GOOD PROFIT ON THEIR INVESTMENT. "IN TEN YEARS", HE SAID, "POLAND WILL BE AN IMPORTANT TRANSIT POINT FOR TOURISTS GOING FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND VICE VERSA." THE AMERICAN HOTEL BUILDERS SHOULD REALIZE THIS. BUT THE AMERICAN HOTEL INDUSTRY DID NOT SEEM INTERESTED. THAT WAS ALL RIGHT WITH THE POLES, OF COURSE. IT MEANT THAT AMERICAN TOURISTS WOULD STAY IN HOTELS BUILT BY THE SWEDES, FRENCH, AND, OF COURSE, POLES. BUT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WAS NOT INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN HOTEL INDUSTRY.

4. MR. PISZEK REPLIED THAT THE AMERICAN HOTEL INDUSTRY WAS THE LARGEST AND MOST FAR-FLUNG IN THE WORLD. IT WAS CONSEQUENTLY NECESSARY FOR IT TO PUT ITS MONEY WHERE THE RETURN WOULD BE BEST. PERHAPS, MR. PISZEK SUGGESTED, POLISH NEGOTIATORS IN THIS FIELD WERE EITHER ASKING FOR TOO MUCH OR UNWILLING TO GIVE ENOUGH. BUT THE AMERICAN HOTEL INDUSTRY HAD TO OPERATE ACCORDING TO A FORMULA. IT COULD NOT GIVE SPECIAL TERMS TO ONE PARTNER OR ONE COUNTRY, OR MAKE A LESS FAVORABLE DEAL WITH IT. IF IT DID, OTHER PARTNERS AND COUNTRIES WOULD QUICKLY LEARN ABOUT IT AND DEMAND THE SAME TERMS, PERHAPS, MR. PISZEK SAID, THE SWEDES, CONFIDENTIAL

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FRENCH, ITALIANS, AND YUGOSLAVS, WHO WERE NOT IN THE HOTEL BUSINESS TO THE SAME EXTENT AS THE AMERICAN FIRMS, WERE ABLE, AS A RESULT OF THEIR SECONDARY OR TERTIARY POSITIONS IN THIS FIELD, TO MAKE SPECIAL OFFERS AND TO TAKE LESS PROFIT. BUT THE AMERICANS PROBABLY COULD NOT DO THIS.

5. AT THE END OF THIS DISCUSSION, THE FIRST

SECRETARY TURNED TO ME AND ASKED WHETHER I COULD FIND OUT WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS. I SAID IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT MR. PISZEK HAD OUTLINED QUITE WELL THE ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN HOTEL CONCERNS. HOWEVER, I SAID, I WOULD INQUIRE INTO THE BACKGROUND AND TRY TO SEE WHETHER THERE WERE NOT SOME INTEREST AMONG AMERICAN CONCERNS IN GETTING MORE DEEPLY INTO HOTEL CONSTRUCTION IN POLAND.

6. MR. PISZEK MENTIONED THE INTEREST MR. JAMES A. MICHENER WAS BEGINNING TO EXPRESS IN WRITING A BOOK ABOUT POLAND. MR. PISZEK CITED THE SUCCESS OF MICHENER'S BOOKS ON VARIOUS COUNTRIES, HIS REPUTATION AS AN AUTHOR, AND THE CARE WITH WHICH HE RESEARCHED THE SUBJECT-MATTER OF ANY BOOK HE WAS WRITING. HE ALSO NOTED MR. MICHENER'S INDEPENDENCE OF VIEWPOINT, SAYING THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE TO URGE HIM TO WRITE ON A GIVEN SUBJECT, BECAUSE WHEN HE WAS ALMOST SURE NOT TO DO SO.

7. THE FIRST SECRETARY SAID THAT THE POLES WERE READY TO HELP MR. MICHENER IN ANY WAY HE CONSIDERED DESIRABLE. THEY WOULD ARRANGE INTERVIEWS FOR HIM WITH WHOMEVER HE WANTED. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HE SEE MORE OF POLAND THAN SIMPLY WARSAW AND KRAKOW, AS HE HAD ON THIS TRIP. IF HE WANTED TO RETURN TO POLAND AT SOME TIME AND SPEND A PROTRACTED PERIOD HERE, HE COULD COME AS A GUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE.

8. MR. PISZEK MENTIONED THAT MR. MICHENER WAS PLANNING TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR "TV GUIDE" ABOUT THE FILM SERIES MADE BY POLISH TELEVISION ON THE BASIS OF REYMONT'S "THE PEASANTS," RECOMMENDING THAT THE

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SERIES BE SHOWN ON AMERICAN TELEVISION. THE FIRST SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS GRATIFICATION. MR. KRASKO SUGGESTED THAT MR. MICHENER MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN THE FILM OF SIENKIEWICZ'S "THE DELUGE."

9. MR. PISZEK OUTLINED THE PLANS OF THE COPERNICUS SOCIETY FOR THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND SUGGESTED THAT POLAND SEND SOME OF ITS WORKS OF ART AND BEST PERFORMING ARTISTS TO THE U.S. IN 1976. SECRETARY GIEREK SAID THE POLES WERE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO WHAT THEY MIGHT DO AND ASSURED MR. PISZEK THAT THEIR EFFORT WOULD BE A SERIOUS ONE. MR. PISZEK ASKED THAT, IN MAKING THEIR PLANS, THE POLES REMEMBER THAT HIS HOME TOWN, PHILADELPHIA, WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE UNITED STATES.

10. THE FIRST SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE THAT MR. PISZEK AND HIS COMPANIONS WERE VISITING POLAND. WRYLY, HE SAID THAT MR. PISZEK REALLY SHOULD VISIT SILESIA, SINCE, JUST AS GOING TO ROME AND NOT SEEING THE POPE WAS LIKE NOT HAVING BEEN IN ROME AT ALL, SO COMING TO POLAND AND NOT VISITING SILESIA WAS ALMOST LIKE NOT HAVING VISITED POLAND AT ALL. HE THANKED MR. PISZEK FOR THE WORK HE WAS DOING TO MAKE POLISH CULTURE BETTER KNOWN IN THE UNITED STATES AND ASKED THAT HIS BEST PERSONAL REGARDS BE CONVEYED TO CARDINAL KROL. HE SAID HE REGRETTED NOT HAVING BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE CARDINAL DURING HIS VISIT TO POLAND IN 1972, BUT SAID THAT, IF HE SHOULD HAVE OCCASION TO VISIT THE U.S., PERHAPS HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET HIM. MR. PISZEK SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE CARDINAL, BUT HE PERSONALLY HOPED THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

11. ON PARTING, MR. PISZEK GAVE THE FIRST SECRETARY A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SURFACE OF THE MOON, SHOWING THE COPERNICUS CRATER.

12. THE MEETING WAS A WARM ONE. THE FIRST SECRETARY SPOKE ELOQUENTLY OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE POLES TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS HERE AT HOME AND OF THE TIES  
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THEY FEEL WITH THE UNITED STATES. MR. PISZEK WAS AN ABLE EXPONENT OF THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW IN BUSINESS MATTERS. THE FIRST SECRETARY GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND SPIRITS.  
DAVIES

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